

Sponsored by: County Administration and Public Safety & Emergency Services Committees

RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF SENATE BILL S.335 (AKSHAR) AND ASSEMBLY BILL A.5065 (ABBATE) A/K/A THE “COMMUNITY HEROES PROTECTION ACT”

WHEREAS, every day throughout Broome County, New York State, and across our nation, first responders, including law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency medical personnel, perform the critical role of protecting and ensuring safety of the public, and

WHEREAS, working or volunteering in these professions doesn't come without a cost to the brave men and women who risk their lives on a daily basis to keep our communities safe, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Fund, 158 law enforcement officers were killed across the United States. in 2018 and year-to-date, there have been 97 killed in 2019, of which nine were from New York State, and

WHEREAS, of those 158 deaths in 2018, 53 were firearms related fatalities, a 15% percent increase from 2017, and of the 97 deaths in 2019, 39 were firearms related fatalities, and

WHEREAS, according to the National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians, 80% of EMTs have experienced some form of injury as a result of the job, with 52% having been injured by assault and over 20% stating that their primary concern is their personal safety, and

WHEREAS, there have been numerous high-profile attacks made against first responders all around the country in recent years and protecting the health and safety of all first responders is paramount to ensuring the safety of the public, and

WHEREAS, the “Community Heroes Protection Act”, introduced by Senator Frederick J. Akshar II and Assemblyman Peter J. Abbate, Jr. would classify all offenses against first responders such as law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency services personnel as hate crimes if they are intentionally aimed at first responders based on the profile of their career, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that this County Legislature strongly supports and commends all law enforcement officers, firefighters, emergency medical personnel, and all other first responders for the invaluable services they provide, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, that this County Legislature applauds the introduction by the New York State Senate of Senate Bill S.335 and the introduction of companion Assembly Bill A.5065 a/k/a the “Community Heroes Protection Act” and urges the New York State Senate and Assembly to adopt the legislation for it to then be signed into law by the New York State Governor, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward a copy of this Resolution to Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl E. Heastie, Senator Frederick J. Akshar II, Assemblyman Peter J. Abbate, Jr, Assemblyman Clifford W. Crouch, Assemblyman Christopher S. Friend, Assemblywoman Donna A. Lupardo, and the New York State Association of Counties.